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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the participants in the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the situation in Tajikistan, held in Moscow on 26 January 1995, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement on Tajikistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

JOINT STATEMENT ON TAJIKISTAN

At their meeting held in Moscow on 26 January 1995, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan and the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Uzbekistan discussed the situation in Tajikistan and its surrounding areas, as well as the situation along the Tajik-Afghan portion of the border of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Expressing the conviction that there were no alternatives to a peaceful and political settlement of the Tajik conflict, they stated that their countries would make every effort to promote national reconciliation.

Concern was expressed at the threat of a breakdown in the inter-Tajik negotiating process carried out under the auspices of the United Nations as a result of the opposition's refusal to implement the agreements concluded earlier. Commending the desire of the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan to pursue a dialogue with the opposition, the participants called upon the latter to adopt a constructive approach as well and to resume talks in Moscow with the Government of Tajikistan without any prior conditions.

The parties expressed deep alarm at the continuing attempts by the opposition to destabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border through armed attacks against border guards which had recently been intensified and had assumed a particularly cruel character. They expressed the intention of stepping up joint efforts to ensure the defence of the Commonwealth's southern borders, especially the Tajik-Afghan portion, which was in the interest of all Commonwealth States.

The participants in the meeting condemned the escalation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border, calling for an end to them and for strict observance of the provisions of the Agreement of 17 September 1994 on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks.

They deemed it essential for the two Tajik parties to reach agreement as soon as possible on extending that Agreement. After emphasizing the importance of improving the cease-fire verification mechanism, the foreign-policy chiefs of the five countries welcomed the establishment, in accordance with Security Council resolution 968 (1994), of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, and expressed support for a substantial increase in its personnel.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, which provided contingents to the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces, supported the initiative put forth in the letter from the President of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of having the Organization participate in settling the conflict in Tajikistan. In particular, they called upon the United Nations to take further steps to establish a mediation mission and to deploy, on the basis of

the CIS Collective Peace-keeping Forces already in place, a full-scale United Nations peace-keeping operation with appropriate financing.

The participants in the meeting called upon the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Afghan military-political groups to take steps to prevent Afghan territory from being used for the launching of armed actions against Tajikistan.

The senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, supporting the efforts of the leadership of Tajikistan to carry out democratic reforms, stressed the special importance in that connection of the forthcoming parliamentary elections and the need for them to be held in accordance with democratic norms, on a multiparty basis, and to ensure the widest possible participation of the various political forces.

Expressing their readiness to continue their economic assistance to Tajikistan, the parties called upon the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the Tajik people in the extremely difficult times which they were experiencing.

The participants in the meeting expressed support for the question of joint steps to strengthen security on the Tajik-Afghan border being taken up at the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth.